



### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **coontail**

*Ceratophyllum demersum*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

### **Features**

Coontail is a submersed aquatic plant without roots. Its stems are slender, long, and branched. Leaves are whorled around the stem in groups of five to 12, each up to 1 1/2 inches long and divided into many toothed leaflets. Flowers are solitary at the base of the leaves. Male flowers are separate from female flowers, but located on the same plant. The tiny fruits are single and longer than broad. A few spines are found on the fruits.

### **Natural History**

Coontail grows in the standing water of ponds, marshes, and lakes. It flowers from June through September. Its fruits are an important food source for waterfowl. It is found mostly in the lakes and marshes of the Des Moines Lobe and is rare to infrequent elsewhere.

### **Habitats**

natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds and reservoirs; Mississippi River